

Congratulations!
My mind goes back half a century when I graduated from high school. I spent my entire fortune on invitations, sending one to each of my relatives and friends whom I thought most likely to respond with a gift. Expectation ran high until all the presents were received which consisted of one red tie, I would not have worn to a dog fight. I was crushed, besides being deeply in the red, but vowed then if anyone ever sent me an invitation I would respond with some kind of a gift. Through the years I have kept that vow.
Best wishes for your graduation and always.

Dear

Sincerely

Dallas McKeever

Dear Sandra,
Many thanks for the invitation, and the pretty picture. Congratulations on your graduation.
My mind goes back half a century when I graduated from high school. I spent my entire fortune on invitations, sending one to each of my relatives and friends whom I thought most likely to respond with a gift. Expectation ran high until all the presents were received which consisted of one red tie, I would not have worn to a dog fight. I was crushed, besides being deeply in the red, but I vowed then if anyone ever sent me an invitation I would respond with some kind of a gift. Through the years I have kept that vow.

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Sincerely,

Dallas McKeever

loved. 23/1886. Contract for Building and it is further agreed
 by and between S. H. 1st of November the owner and C. M. 1st of
 month the Contractor. This House is to be built - standing on the
 ground and Specifications of the floor plans length of 36 feet
 is 33 feet long 14 feet wide with 8 ft 2 ft feet long and 14 feet wide
 on the north 4 feet wide and 22 feet long. Painting on End of Arch
 14 ft 7 feet Parapet in front 5 feet wide by 14 feet long this House
 is to be built Two Story in stead of one and a half Story
 with out the front gable in the roof the amount of work to be
 done framing weather boarding dressed Roofing this House is to
 be finished in good order plain on the out side in side two
 floors two Passes down Stairs one Pass up Stairs
 Fairway complete paneled under Stairway partitions
 run with Sticking two brass the boards wash boards including
 front door with side Lites and Lites a horse all out side doors
 to be raised panes 15 Doors 13 windows glass 15 x 30 four
 panes to the window - said Contractor agrees to build
 said House for one hundred and seventy five Dollars
 \$175.00 to be paid when House is finished and \$75.00 twenty
 dollars to be paid May 1st 1887

WM. H. McNEAL

THE DALLIES, OREGON

Oct. 19, 1933.

Mrs. Margaret C. Arnold

324 N. 10th St. Lincoln, Nebraska

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

My dear Mrs. Arnold:

Your very kind letter of the 18 of Oct. received today.

I have assembled the data you sent me, which I have now to me, and am returning a copy, in typewritten form, for I may not have gotten all the various names spelled correctly as they are new to me.

I note you had only 5 children listed under John McNeal of the American Revolution (1745-1825) and seemed to be under the impression that I descended from John McNeal a son of Abraham McNeal who went "west" and whose descendants are unknown to you and me.

Its quite the contrary, I descend from John McNeal, Jr. a son of John McNeal the 1st. and a brother to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Miriam, Nancy and Martha, one of the brothers and sons which you do not seem to have listed.

It may be possible that "our" John McNeal is not a son of "your John" but may be from an entirely different group of McNeals of that part of Virginia; but it has always been our understanding that "our" John (of the War of 1812) was the descendant of John and Martha Davis McNeal.

Pending the clearing up of that point, I am sending you a list of the McNeal descendants of "our" John of 1776-1814. We are now checking this data with the D.A.R. library files in Washington, D.C. as well as with the son and daughters of the War of 1812. It has been our understanding that "our" John was buried in the McNeal graveyard at Hillsboro, W. Va. after his death in 1814 and before his fathers death (1825).

You will note on page 3 of the data on "our" descendants, I have put a check after the name of Mrs. Phelps of Oklahoma City, Okla. It has been my understanding that she has checked this matter with the D.A.R. some 20 years ago and found that we descend from John and Martha Davis McNeal. I have wrote her a letter on this matter 4 or 5 years ago, but never got an answer to it. If you can determine whether she belongs to the D.A.R. thru the McNeals it may solve this point about John McNeal (1776-1814).

Always feel free to write me on any of these matters at any time, for I assure you it is indeed a pleasure to come in contact with a person so anxious to help as you have been, and to say that I appreciate the favors you have shown me, is expressing it very mildly.

I shall write to Mr. Calvin Price, the editor of the Pocahontas Times at Marlinton, W. Va. to see if he can locate a volume of The History of Pocahontas Co. by Rev. Wm. Price, which I can borrow and thereby familiarize myself with the McNeals of that part of the country in a more fitting manner.

Thank you very much,

Mr. Calvin Price, Editor
Pocahontas Times, Marlinton, W. Va.

Wm. H. McNeal

My dear Mr. Price:

Above is a copy of a letter sent to Mrs. Arnold of Oklahoma City, who advises me to write you and try and locate a copy of History of Pocahontas Co. Va. by Rev. Wm. Price, which is a history on the McNeals (McNeels); which I would like to borrow either directly from you or thru the Wasco County Library at The Dalles, Ore. which I am a patron of.

Enclosed is a list of the McNeals whom I believe are descendants of the McNeals of Hillsboro, West Virginia.

Thank you,

Wm. H. McNeal

Wm. H. McNeal

You may refer this letter to Matthew John McNeal at Hillsboro, West Virginia if you care to; occupant of the old John McNeal place there from whom I would be glad to hear.

Wm. H. McNeal

— C O P I E —

To the Clerk of the Town of McNeill,
McNeill, Hardy Co., W. Va.
Dear Sir:

Sept. 15, 1932.

Will you kindly give me the name and address of some McNeill, or other citizen of your town, who would likely know by whom and when the town of McNeill was founded? If you happen to be familiar with the history of the town, your information may cover all I wish to know, which is, when was the settlement founded? By whom was it founded? Are any McNeills now living there?

I might add that my interest in this matter is due to the fact that I am a descendant of Thomas McNeill who settled on the Greenbrier in present Randolph Co., who is reputed to have come from the Canon Valley in old Frederick. Reply postage inclosed. Very truly,

Rockfield, West Va., Oct. 21, 1932.

Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Dear Mr. Swing:

Your letter of Sept. 15, 1932, was handed to me by the postman at McNeill.

In reply, the McNeill family of McNeill was founded in 1910 when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company built a branch line through this section and a postoffice was opened there. The postoffice and railroad station were named for my father, John F. McNeill, Sr., now in his 85th year and who has lived there all his life.

On my father's farm, along the South branch of the Potomac river, there is a large rock known for the past hundred years or longer as the "Tom McNeill Rock". It is named from one Tom McNeill who used to climb on this rock to watch for deer. In some manner his gun was accidentally discharged, killing him off into the river. Whether this is the Thomas McNeill from whom you are descended I am unable to say.

My father is descended from John McNeill who came to this valley in 1788 from Berks Co., Pa.

There have been McNeills here since 1788 and at one time they owned a major part of the valley and built practically every brick house now standing.

If you desire any farther information, I shall be glad to give it to you, if possible.

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A. E. EWING,
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR
XXX XXXX XXXX XXXX
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
347 Charles Ave., S.E.

October 23, 1939.

Mr. Paul P. McNeill,
Morefield, W. Va.

Dear Mr. McNeill:

I thank you so much for yours of the 12th in reply to my "blinded" inquiry of Sept. 18. You not only answered each direct inquiry, but added interesting points and incidents, so well related that I am moved to ask for a "second helping".

First of all, however, I beg to present my respects to your aged father, John P. McNeill, Jr., now in his 84th year. He is my uncle by 14 years. I truly hope he enjoys a good health.

In all probability you know your ancestral line back to 1700—a good, long line of 8 or 9 generations, perhaps. While I do not need them in fine detail, such as dates of births, marriages and deaths, it would help me to know the approximate birth years. It would also help us to know the names (maiden names) of the wives of the first two or three line-holders.

Here in brief is what I can tell you: My great great grandfather Thomas McNeill was, according to family tradition, born in Wales about 1747. The year of his coming to this land (or Pa.) is not known, but we know that he married a widow, or, I think, Mrs. Mary Hughes, daughter of William Hughes, in the province of Hampshire, in 1768. The Hugheses are also said to have come from Wales. I have lately reached the conclusion that Thomas McNeill was a miner at the time of migration, and that suggests that his parents likely migrated at the same time. However, I know of no McNeill tradition that mentions Thomas' parents. Thomas and Mary had six children, the first, Jonathan, born in 1769, and the second, Mary (my great grandmother), born in 1771. Price, in his Hist. of Pocahontas Co., states that Thomas McNeill came into Pocahontas from Green Springs in 1768-70. Price definitely re-stated the prevailing McNeill tradition on that point. Joshua S. Buckley, of Marlinton, a gt.-gt.-gt. grandson of Thom., challenges the old tradition, and believes that Thomas did not move to the Greenbrier valley until soon after the Revolution. He also doubts that Thomas McNeill was born in Wales. A John McNeill (McNeill) settled on Little Levels (Poca.Co.) in 1765, and his descendants say he was born in 1745. He, also, was from the Capon country, and married one Martha Davis of that region. Some say Thomas and John were brothers, some say they were cousins, and others say they were not related.

Buckley knows about your South Branch McNeill, and he is of the opinion, I believe, that our Greenbrier Thomas came from South Branch. Mr. Ida V. McNeill Ginn, Ontario, O., a McNeill family historian, says that Thomas McNeill was a Rev. War soldier under George Rogers Clark, and the latter told us that Clark raised a company of two Irish in your country. That last further support to Buckley's theory that our Thomas joined Clark from early on. The idea has also been advanced that John McNeill, founder of Little Levels settlement, was also related to the South Branch McNeill. Some or less has been said in writings about Col. John McNeill, and Lieut. John McNeill, neither of which titles fit John of Little Levels, although he was one of Captain John Stuart's men at

A. E. EWING

347 CHARLES AVE., S. E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Dear Mr. Price; Oct. 23, 1939-

I am sorry the enclosed copy of letter just received from Paul F. McNeill of Moorefield is such a poor one, but I hope you will read it even if you have to use your "reading glass", as it has a bearing upon the Hardy Co. McNeills, and ties up with your article in Times of Aug. 31. I am sending it for your files and for future reference if you need it. I am convinced the South Branch settlement was founded before Thomas of Swago, and John of Little Levels were born -

Roll of extra copies of Times, Oct 19, 1939, received today. Thanks -

Truly

A. E. Ewing

In the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of West Virginia. United States of America v. Harry B. Hanger, Jr., et al and 1,592.40 Acres of Land lying in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Notice of Convening of Commissioners. To: Hanger, Harry B., Jr.; Hanger, Elizabeth; Bratton, Pear Hanger; Bratton, Jesse M; Colew, ____; Hamilton, Frank F.; Hamilton, Hattie Faucher; Hamilton, Elbert A.; Hamilton, Annie Hopkins; Hamilton, Henry H.; Hamilton, Catherine; Hamilton, Willa G.; Hamilton, E. A.; Hanger, John Trimble; Hanger, Mabel Fox; Hanger, Margaret S.; Hanger, Jean M.; Huffer, Willa Hanger; Huffer, Moffett F.; Johnson, ____; Livesay, Virginia Hanger; Livesay, Jack K.; Latham, Margaret Hamilton; Latham, T. Otis; Marshall, Elizabeth Hanger; Marshall, Judge John, Jr.; Nelson, ____; North Fork Lumber Company, Samuel T. Spears, President; Ramsey ____; Spelman, Felicia Hanger; Spelman, Dr. John D.; State Bank and Trust Company of Richmond, Kentucky, and Harry B. Hanger, Jr., Executor of the will of Harry Baylor Hanger, Sr.; Taylor and Price; Waller, Willa Belle; Waller, N. C.; Wright, Lillian Hanger; Wright, Charles M.; York, C. T.; Halterman, S. C.; Hanger, W. Arnold, individually and as Executor of the Will of Harry Baylor Hanger, Sr.; Hanger, Mary; Johnson, John W.; Johnson, ____; Seron, ____; Wilfong, Henry; The following persons, if living, if dead, their unknown heirs and/or assigns: Harvey, William; Kincaid, Margaret; Kincaid, Peter H.; Kincaid, John; Kincaid, William M.; the heirs and or assigns of the following deceased persons: Clairbourne, Catherine T.; Hanger, Harry Baylor, Sr.; Hull, Peter; Hull, William P.; Mason, C. R.; Ross, George T.; Swoope, Jacob; Swoope, William; Thompson, Sarah Swoope; Trimble, John; Yeager, John

BY - LAWS

WEST VIRGINIA

GOOD GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

(An association registered under the laws of the
State of West Virginia)

Name

The name of this Association shall be "West
Virginia Good Government Association".

Purpose

The purpose of this Association is to secure the
bona fide support by citizens of the following pledge, and
to pursue all lawful and proper means to accomplish the ob-
jects therein stated:

"BELIEVING that eternal vigilance is the price of
liberty; that democracy can survive only in the event
that the whole people take an active interest in their
political affairs; that in the course of time people
get no better government than they deserve; that pol-
itical service may be as patriotic and as necessary as
military service; that government by small minorities
is contrary to the principles upon which our government
is founded; that there should be elected to public of-
fice only people of character and ability who are de-
voted to the preservation of democracy; that these ends
may be accomplished only by an aroused public interest
and the participation in politics by all of the people --

"WE PLEDGE OURSELVES to keep informed about govern-
mental affairs, to vote at all elections, to vote in the
manner dictated by our conscience, and to urge others to
do likewise."

Membership

The membership of the Association shall be composed
of all citizens of West Virginia who in good faith indicate
their desire to become members thereof and whose names shall
be admitted to the membership rolls by the Executive Committee
of the Association.